

e) the resulting nonwoven fabric exhibiting a final basis weight of between about 2.0 ounces and 6.0 ounces, a Martindale Abrasion Value of at least 50,000 cycles, a combined drape value of less than 2.45 grams force per gram fabric weight and a combined bend value of less than 0.42 milligram-centimeter per mil thickness.

13. (Once Amended) A [method of making a] durable nonwoven fabric as in claim 12, said precursor web comprising layers of polyester fibers.

14. (Once Amended) A [method of making a] durable nonwoven fabric as in claim 12, said precursor web comprising layers of polyester and nylon fibers

REMARKS

Responsive to the Official Action mailed July 16, 2002, applicant has amended the claims of his application in an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance. Specifically, claim 15 has been canceled, and claims 12, 13, and 14 amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Action, the Examiner has maintained his Restriction Requirement, stating "in the instant case the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process by pre-dyeing the fibers before the web is made". Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicant's product claims specifically set forth that the recited nonwoven fabric includes a "*pre-dye finish*", followed by a curing step. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the recited nonwoven fabric is formed by a method consistent with that set forth in claims 1-11, wherein the method contemplates application of a pre-dye finish, followed by curing, prior to a following dyeing step.